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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTME TOF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Scott Historic Area includes approximately seven acres comprising the original area of Fort Scott and now located within the city of Fort Scott, Kansas. Original development occurred around the 350' x 350' parade ground. Grounds restoration, currently underway, centers about this parade ground and includes removal of non-historic trees and replanting of hardwood trees and grasses matching those originally planted by the Army. Streets which were built after the historic period have been and are being converted to brick walkways which tie in with the walkway system being developed for the area.

Historic structures within the area are as follows:

HS-1 Officers Quarters. This 58' x 37½', 2½-story duplex was built as housing for officers in 1843. It has a full two-story porch ten feet deep both on the front and the rear elevations. At either end of both porches there is a wood stair leading to the upper level of the porches. On the upper level of the front porch there are seven Doric columns with railing between and supported by seven stone piers. The rear porch is identical with the exception of vertical board exterior closets at each end in lieu of columns on the upper level. There is one brick chimney and two dormers on each side of the wood-shingled gable roof. The house is sheathed in clapboard siding painted tan. It is in excellent condition having recently been restored on the exterior with one living unit restored on the interior.

HS-2 Officers Quarters. This structure is virtually identical to HS-1, having been constructed from 1845 through 1848. It has four dormers on each side of the roof, rather than two. Recent restoration has been for the exterior only and it, like HS-1, is in excellent condition.

HS-3 Officers Quarters. This structure was virtually identical to HS-2, having been constructed from 1843 through 1846. It was demolished in 1900. A later house has been removed from the site and the ground plan of the house is being delineated to indicate its presence.

HS-4 Officers Quarters. This structure was virtually identical to HS-2, having been erected from 1843 through 1846. In 1945 the east half burned to the ground. The west half, which survived, has been restored on its exterior to its historic appearance and is in excellent condition.

HS-5 Dragoon Barracks. This 65' x 32', 2½-story structure was built from 1842 through 1844 as an Army barracks. It has a porch on the east side that is virtually identical to those on HS-1, but with a central stair rather than end stairs and six columns rather than seven. The wood-shingled gable roof is supported by fink trusses. There are two stone chimneys. The building is sheathed in clapboard siding painted tan. Demolished in 1900, it will be reconstructed in 1976 and will be in excellent condition.

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 1)

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SPECIFIC DATES 1842-1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT United States Army

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Scott, in Bourbon County, extreme eastern Kansas, was established in 1842 as a base for U.S. Army peace-keeping efforts along the vague "Permanent Indian Frontier" between the established states of the Union and the unorganized territories to the west. It was abandoned in 1853, after this concept was dropped, and Kansas and Nebraska territories were opened to white settlement. The fort area then became a civilian community and, during the "Bleeding Kansas" period (1854-1861)—when free-staters and pro-slavery factions struggled for supremacy—was the focus of much civil disturbance.

During the Civil War (1861-1865) Fort Scott was reactivated and was an important supply center and staging area for Union armies fighting in Missouri, the Indian Territory (modern Oklahoma), and Arkansas. Civil commotion attendant to new railroad construction brought the Army back in the 1870s for a short period.

Few of the many western fort sites available to the modern traveler and history buff reveal so many separate aspects of our nation's Westward Expansion experience.

The military post of Fort Scott, named for the illustrious General-in-Chief, Winfield S. Scott, was unusual in having a career that was distinctly divided into four parts, each relating to sequential but separate phases of American History.

The first Fort Scott, 1842-1853, was established as a link in a north-south chain of Army posts, extending along a military road from Fort Snelling in Minnesota to Fort Towson in Oklahoma, to stabilize the theoretical boundary between American settlers to the east and Indians (both native and transplanted) to the west. It was occupied by both Infantry and Dragoon units. This was a period of relative quiescence on the frontier, the main highlights being the participation by Fort Scott Dragoons, in company with other units based on Fort Leavenworth, in several notable, but largely peaceful expeditions westward up the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. The parade ground area and the major surviving military structures (2½ Officers Quarters plus the Hospital) go back to the early period.

The site of the original Fort Scott military post of 1842-1853, on a limestone bluff about 50 feet above the junction of the Marmaton River

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 5)

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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HS-6 Infantry Barracks. This structure was similar to HS-5 and was constructed in 1844. It was demolished in the 1880s. A later residence has been removed from the site and the ground plan of the barracks is being delineated to indicate its presence.

HS-7 Infantry Barracks. This structure is virtually identical to HS-5 and was erected in 1843 and 1844. It was demolished later and replaced by a brick structure which has been recently removed. Exterior reconstruction was undertaken in 1976. It is in excellent condition.

HS-8 Hospital. A 48' x 32', 2-story structure, the hospital was built in 1843. It has a 10' deep, two-story veranda completely surrounding the building. There are central stairs to the upper level of the porch at the front and the rear. The upper level has 24 Doric columns, eight on the front and rear and six on the side, with railing between columns. Below the columns are stone piers. There are two brick chimneys piercing the double-pitched, wood-shingled hip roof. The building is covered with clapboard siding painted tan. The building is in excellent condition with the exterior and main floor being restored and the ground floor adapted for use as a visitor's center in 1975. The west ward room on the main floor will be refurnished to the historic period.

HS-9 Guardhouse. Begun in 1844 and finished in 1848, this guardhouse measures 32' x 32' and is one-story. It has a 10' deep porch on its north side with four limestone masonry piers identical to those on the previous buildings. There are two brick chimneys piercing the woodshingled gable roof. The walls are of coursed limestone rubble masonry. The exterior was reconstructed in 1974, replacing a brick building constructed after the demolition of the original guardhouse. The present building is in excellent condition.

HS-10 Dragoon Stables. This structure was begun in 1843 and finished in 1845. It was a frame 210'x 32' stables for 80 horses, one-story tall with a central passageway and a small loft under the roof. The lumberyard and sheet metal works which later replaced the stables have been recently demolished and work is underway to delineate the ground plan.

HS-11 Ordnance and Post Headquarters. Constructed in 1845, this building was a 32' x 57' one-story frame clapboard structure. The small, frame house which replaced the headquarters has recently been removed and the ground outline of the original structure is being delineated.

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 2)

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HS-12 Quartermaster and Subsistence Storeroom. A 32' x 58', two-story frame storeroom with a raised basement, this structure was erected in 1843. The roof is a simple wood-shingled gable. The exterior is covered with clapboard siding painted tan. There is a small stoop with three steps. The building is in excellent condition with exterior restoration undertaken in 1976.

 ${
m HS-13}$  Quartermaster Stables. This was a large, enclosed compound 140' x 115' with a 21-stall stable and oat and corn cribs. Its site has been recently cleared of non-historic structures and the ground plan is being delineated.

HS-14 Bake Shop. A 18' x 37', one-story bake shop, this structure was constructed by 1848. It has a brick chimney piercing the wood-shingled gable roof and coursed limestone rubble masonry walls on a concrete block core. It is in excellent condition, having been reconstructed in 1974, utilizing the original fabric.

HS-15 Well Canopy. Dug in 1843, the well probably had its canopy erected at the same time. The well is 5' in diameter with a circular wellhead set eccentrically in an octagonal flagstone terrace. The canopy consisted of eight Doric columns supporting an octagonal entablature which is surmounted by a low metal dome painted white. It will be in excellent condition after reconstruction undertaken in 1976.

HS-16 Flagpole. Erected sometime after 1848, the flagpole was later removed. The planned reconstruction will be 40' or 50' tall.

HS-17 Magazine. This octagonal one-story brick building 8' on a side was begun in 1843 and finished in 1844 and was modeled after the magazine at Fort Leavenworth. It has cut-stone corners and cornice line, as well as door and false window frames. The interior is a single room 12' in diameter. The roof is a metal dome 10' in radius. Demolished in 1868, reconstruction was begun in 1976.

HS-18 Sutler's Store. A privately owned log store, described as a "double log house," this structure was demolished by 1868. Only the site remains.

HS-19 Lunette Blair. Constructed in 1863 as a log Civil War blockhouse, this structure measures 16' x 16' and is two stories tall. It has a

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 3)

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wood-shingled hip roof and clapboard walls. Following the Civil War, it was moved to the property of Dr. W. S. McDonald. It was later moved to the former parade ground of the old fort. In 1957 it was again moved to its present location, and was essentially reconstructed utilizing some original materials. Current plans call for its relocation to a position more complementary to the restored fort, but outside of the boundary of the historic site. It is in excellent condition.

HS-20 Corn Mill. Completed by 1848, this square structure was located approximately on Hendricks Street. At present it is only a site.

HS-21 Latrine. Completed by 1848, this two-room latrine was set on the edge of the bluff 300 yards northwest of the dragoon stables. With the removal of part of the bluff the site of the latrine, as well as the latrine itself, was destroyed.

HS-22 Latrine. Now only a site, this was formerly a two-room latrine completed by 1848 and located 300 yards southeast of the barracks (HS-6).

- HS-23 Hospital Shed. This shed was mentioned in a letter dated from 1848, saying that it had been erected in 1847. It was possibly located to the rear of the hospital (HS-8).
- HS-24 Oxen Shed. Now an unidentified site, this structure received construction authorization in 1849.
  - HS-25 Blacksmith Shop, HS-26 Carpenter Shop, HS-27 Granaries, HS-28 Root Houses, and HS-29 Ice House. Nothing is known about these structures except that they were offered for sale in 1855. Quite possibly, they were located in or near the quartermaster stables (HS-13).
  - HS-30 Stone Building. A 25' x 15' 12-story stone building located on the site of the quartermaster stables, its original use is still not known, but is possibly the original blacksmith shop (HS-25). It has coursed limestone rubble masonry walls and foundations and a woodshingled gable roof pierced by a stone chimney. It is in excellent condition with restoration to be completed soon.
  - HS-31 Stables. This is a two-story stable probably erected after abandonment of the fort in 1855. Construction consists of coursed limestone rubble masonry walls and foundations under a wood-shingled gable roof. It is in excellent condition, having been restored in 1974.

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 4)

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HS-32 Stables. A two-story structure probably erected after 1855, this stable has limestone coursed rubble masonry walls and foundations and a wood-shingled hip roof. It is in excellent condition, having been restored in 1974.

HS-34 Stone Building. A one-story structure measuring about 10' x 15', this building is located a few feet off the east corner of the ordnance and post headquarters site (HS-11). Its remaining 2½ walls and foundations are of coursed rubble limestone masonry construction and its roof is missing. It is in ruins with stabilization of it as a ruin underway.

HS-35 Stone Building. This is a one-story structure probably built as an outbuilding for the officers quarters (HS-1). It has accoursed rubble limestone masonry veneer over concrete block and brick walls and reinforced concrete footings. The gable roof is covered with wood shingles. It is in excellent condition, having been reconstructed in 1974, utilizing the original fabric.

HS-36 Stone Building. Essentially identical to HS-35, this structure is located to the rear of officers quarters HS-2. It too is in excellent condition having been reconstructed in 1974, utilizing the original fabric.



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and Mill Creek, was chosen because of its strategic defensive position and access to water and timber. The parade ground, about 350 feet square, was laid out about 300 yards back from the point of the bluff, and principal buildings were arranged around this square. Lt. Richard S. Ewell, the first post quartermaster, initiated the construction program, thus is presumably the man responsible for building placement and basic design. However, he was soon replaced by Captain Thomas Swords, who supervised the construction up to his departure for the Mexican War.

The intended plan of the immediate parade ground area was as follows:
On the northeast side, the commanding officer's quarters and four duplex officers' quarters; to the northwest, dragoon barracks and stables; to the southwest, infantry barracks, hospital and guardhouse; to the southeast, infantry barracks and second stable. The commanding officer's quarters and second stable were never built. Other major structures planned were completed but in some cases only after many years of frustration. The guardhouse was of stone, others were framed and weather-boarded, with ground-level basements for messes and storerooms. The upper floors had higher ceilings. All had fireplaces and large verandas. Their appearance was one of architectural simplicity, in traditional style

Outside of the immediate parade ground were the commander's office, ordnance, quartermaster shop, corrals and stables and bakery, all within the present park zone. The sutler's store was outside of this zone, possibly within the triangle now made by National, Market and Oak Streets.

The second Fort Scott, 1853-1861, had military overtones, but was not officially military. After the 1853 abandonment, settlers began filtering in, occupied the buildings and gradually added new ones, thus beginning the town of Fort Scott. The sutler's store operated by Hiero Wilson, outside of the military area, became the first commercial building of the new town. Officers' row made excellent residences. The other buildings saw service as shops, offices, warehouses and public meeting places.

This period was made painfully memorable by a series of incidents which relate to the pre-Civil War episode called "Bleeding Kansas." In short, by the terms of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, Kansas was "up for grabs" between pro-slavery and anti-slavery adherents, and much feuding and bloodshed occurred among various factions. The two extremist elements of this period were identified as Missouri Border Ruffians and Kansas Jayhawkers. The legendary John Brown was among the latter. U.S. Army units from Fort Leavenworth were frequently dispatched to this area

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 6)

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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in efforts to enforce the peace, and such units occasionally encamped in the neighborhood. The former Army buildings were now privately owned and there is no evidence of temporary Army occupation of them at this time. However, two former Army buildings figured prominently in the antagonisms of the period. Officers Quarters No. 1 (The Fort Scott Hotel) became the stronghold of anti-slavery forces, while the Infantry Barracks opposite (the Western Hotel) sheltered pro-slavery conspirators.

The third Fort Scott, 1862-1865, was a larger Civil War establishment which coincided only in part with the original and smaller Fort Scott of the Indian frontier.

Being a strategic point on the explosive border of southwestern Missouri (considered pro-slavery country), close to unstable Indian territory (Oklahoma), and halfway between Fort Leavenworth and the Confederate State of Arkansas, the town of Fort Scott became a strategic base for the Union forces. Though threatened twice by the movements of troops under Confederate General Sterling Price, Fort Scott itself was never attacked; the nearest fighting of consequence occurred in 1861 at Dry Creek (10 miles east); in 1863 at Baxter Springs (65 miles south); and in 1864 at Mine Creek (20 miles north). Fort Scott's role at this time can be described variously as that of Union strongpoint, quartermaster supply depot, general hospital, prison camp, recruiting point, and place of refuge for freed slaves and homeless victims of the war.

The original Army post was not reactivated in the sense that the United States reclaimed or repurchased the land and buildings, In the name of a national emergency the Army did rent from private owners (who were probably given little choice in the matter) most of the buildings in the immediate parade ground area, the big exception being Officers' Row. However, old Officers Quarters No. 1, then a hotel, doubtless accommodated much transient Army brass, while No. 3 became the personal property of Colonel Blair, the post commander. Fittingly enough, the Hospital as well as neighboring structures were converted to Civil War hospital use, while the Dragoon Stables became a commissary. Just what constituted post headquarters at this time is not clear, but the old headquarters, No. 11, might have been so reactivated. New Army buildings, including a blacksmith shop and store house, sprang up in hitherto empty space around the old quadrangle. Meanwhile the parade ground itself was apparently brought back to life once more for military reviews and patriotic rallies.

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 7)

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The big difference during the Civil War, aside from the rejuvenation of the old fort by process of requisition, was the Army take-over of other real estate in the town to handle its regional responsibilities. city blocks outside of the old fort were converted to quartermaster and commissary functions -- post stables, mess house, forage yard, corn cribs, hay yard, wood yard, coal yard, and offices for the forage-master and others. (Also, large blocks of land were taken over by the encampments of several thousand soldiers, which at times probably stretched for miles along the Marmaton River and into the countryside.) In addition to these vital but prosaic structures, three lunettes or earthworks with interior blockhouses were constructed in the vicinity to repel any Confederate Two of these, Lunettes Henning and Blair, were on Second Stree invaders. in the present downtown area, while one, Lunette Insley, was near the point of the bluff overlooking Marmaton River. Henning and Insley have disappeared. Lunette Blair was transplanted some years ago to the parade ground, then again to its present location to the rear of Officers' Row. In the process it underwent much reconstruction, but it is the sole survivor of buildings distinctive to the Civil War period.

Thus Fort Scott III, the Civil War version, consisted of portions of both the original fort and the later town, though it is difficult to assess the comparative role of the two sections, and identify the real nerve center of Civil War activities. Nevertheless, the Civil War clearly made a heavy imprint on the old fort, providing another vital chapter in its checkered history.

The fourth Fort Scott, 1870-1873, was the least significant historically, and apparently had nothing whatever to do with the original Fort. This was actually called officially, "Post of Southeast Kansas," and what it consisted of, physically, was a small office or headquarters in town (exact site unidentified). There may have been occasional encampments of troops at the edge of town, but the soldiers were usually stationed at temporary camps in Kansas and Indian Territory (later Oklahoma), where various small frictions developed among railroad builders, settlers Indian agents and Indian traders, land speculators, etc.

Later Fort Scott: The character of the original fort slowly deteriorated as most of the rotting Army structures made way for new residences and commercial buildings. The aging and deterioration of these later civilian structures around the parade ground, coupled with the crowding in of other downtown structures, had largely destroyed the character of a military post by the time the park was established in 1965.

(See Continuation Sheet, Page 8)

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Aside from the two big white frame officer's quarters which survived more or less intact, the principal historic feature which survived was the parade ground. Given the civilian name of Carroll Plaza, for reasons not entirely clear, this block at first tended to become a public dump, as well as wood-yard and wagon corral. However, civic pride asserted itself and in time it was fenced and given the park-like character it still retains. After the Civil War it apparently maintained its importance as a setting for public gatherings of all kinds, Indian dances, patriotic celebrations, band concerts, etc.

Today its character as a military parade ground, once the setting of Dragoon Cavalry formations, has been restored by removal of a random profusion of shade trees, equipment for play and picnicking, concrete walks, a stone wall, stone portals and a central raised flower bed. Coupled with the restoration of the parade ground is the restoration and reconstruction of significant buildings from the fort's first period. When restoration is completed a reasonable facsimile of the early Fort Scott will have been recreated to enable the public to appreciate and understand a significant aspect of our Nation's history.

This work is undertaken by the City of Fort Scott with financial and technical support from the National Park Service, under authority of the Act of August 31, 1965, as amended, which declared the national significance of the property, established it as Fort Scott Historic Area (an area "affiliated" with the National Park System), and authorized this federal support and federally assisted commemoration of certain other sites in Kansas associated with events before and during the Civil War.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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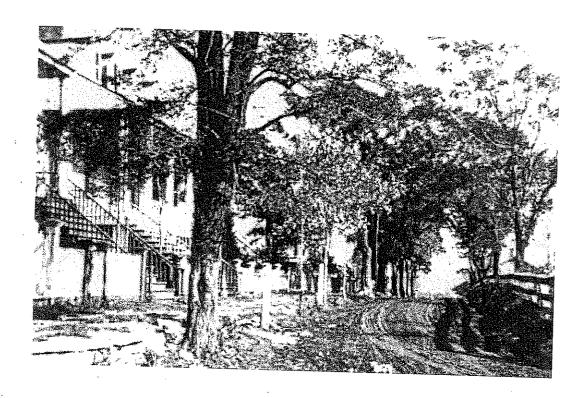
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Thompson, Erwin N., Fort Scott, Kansas, Site Identification and Evaluation U.S. Dept. of Interior, National Park Service, Division of History, February 15, 1967.

National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 1998



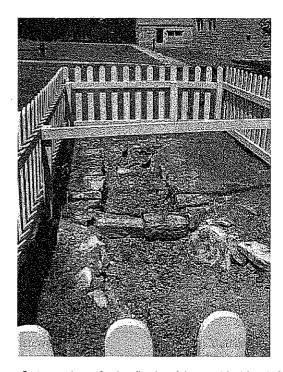
Fort Scott National Historic Site Fort Scott National Historic Site

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
DRAGOON BARRACKS	Contributing	Dragoon Barracks	05851	HS-05 ✓
PDRAGOON STABLES	Contributing	Dragoon Stables	17000	$_{ ext{HS-}10}$ $\sqrt{\ }$
O FLAGSTAFF	Contributing	Flagstaff	23442A	HS-16 ✓
♥ GUARDHOUSE	Contributing	Guardhouse	05855	HS-09 V
<b>⋈</b> HOSPITAL	Contributing	Hospital	05854	HS-08 ✓
4 INFANTRY BARRACKS	Contributing	Infantry Barracks	05852	HS-06 <b>√</b>
(nfantry barracks, HS-07	Contributing	Infantry Barracks	05853	HS-07 J
QLATRINES	Contributing	Latrines	70015	HS-22 -
C LIGHTNING ROD	Contributing	Lightning Rod	70014	HS-17A
OFFICERS' QUARTERS #1	Contributing	Officers' Quarters #1	05848	HS-01 J
OFFICERS' QUARTERS #2	Contributing	Officers' Quarters #2	05849	HS-02 J
¶ OFFICERS' QUARTERS #4	Contributing	Officers' Quarters #4	05850	HS-04 <b>√</b>
ORDINANCE AND POST HEADQUARTERS	Contributing	Ordinance And Post Headquarters	17001	HS-11 J
7 PARADE GROUND WALKWAY	Contributing	Parade Ground Walkway	70016	HS-38
POST BAKERY	Contributing	Post Bakery	05857	HS-14 J
9 POWDER MAGAZINE	Contributing	Powder Magazine	05860	HS-17 J
QUARTERMASTER'S STOREHOUSE	Contributing	Quartermaster's Storehouse	05856	HS-12 √
STONE OUTBUILDING	Contributing	Stone Outbuilding	05866	HS-35 J
STONE OUTBUILDING, HS-36	Contributing	Stone Outbuilding	05867	HS-36

5	STONE WALKWAY - OFFICERS' ROW	Contributing	Stone Walkway - Officers' Row		70017	HS-39
7	STONE WALLS	Contributing	Stone Walls	,	70018	HS-40
Ą	TRADE SHOP	Contributing	Trade Shop		05862	$_{ ext{HS-30}}$ $\checkmark$
4	WELL AND CANOPY	Contributing	Well And Canopy		05859	HS-15 √
3	CARRIAGE HOUSE	Non-Contributing -	Carriage House		05863	HS-31 √
di	CARRIAGE HOUSE, HS-32	Non-Contributing	Carriage House		05864	$_{ ext{HS-}32}$ $\checkmark$
h	CISTERN	Non-Contributing	Cistern		70013	HS-06A

### 

The stone foundations of the latrines, drainage system, cisterns, buried patios, walkways, quartermasters' quadrangle, company wash houses and storage buildings are considered archeological features due to their subsurface positioning. These resources most likely date to the original 1842-1853 period of significance. These features are generally located around the existing buildings and on the eastern portion of the site, adjacent to HS-30, the trade shop. As described in the 1997 version of the Fort Scott Resource Management Plan, a thorough archeological investigation needs to be conducted to determine the entire scope of these resources. For the purpose of this inventory, the integrity of these features is considered high due to their potential to yield important historical information.



Current view of privy (latrines) located behind HS-6. (CLI Level 2, 1998).



View of area of where Quartermaster Quadrangle once existed. (CLI Level 2, 1998).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Buried patios and walks	Contributing			
Cisterns	Contributing			
Drainage structures	Contributing			
Latrines	Contributing	Latrines	70015	HS-22 🗸
Quartermaster quadrangle	Contributing			
Stone foundations	Contributing			